

Message Text

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ORIGIN HA-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EUR-12 IO-13 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 PM-05 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 PA-01 /092 R

DRAFTED BY HA/HR:RMMAXIM:DJR
APPROVED BY HA/HR:CSALMON

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/I:JBUNCHER A
-----130981 291032Z /14
R 290114Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM

SUBJECT: ALLEGATIONS OF EXPLOITATION OF PRISON LABOR

1. DEPARTMENT (HA) HAS BEEN ASKED BY INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINISTS AND AEROSPACE WORKERS (IAMAW) TO COMMENT ON ARTICLE TRANSMITTED BELOW FROM AUGUST 7 ISSUE OF WEST GERMAN MAGAZINE DER SPEIGEL. IAMAW SAID THIS FIRST TIME SUCH ACCUSATIONS ABOUT KENYA HAD COME TO THEIR ATTENTION. NEITHER HA NOR AF HAVE ANY INFORMATION THAT WOULD CONFIRM ARTICLE'S ALLEGATIONS OF EXPLOITATION OF PRISONER LABOR, ESPECIALLY INCLUDING ALLEGEDLY MASSIVE USE OF CHILD PRISONERS.

2. WE RECOGNIZE THAT EMBASSY VERY MUCH OCCUPIED WITH EVENTS CONCERNING FUNERAL OF KENYATTA, BUT WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS ON THE ARTICLE WHEN TIME PERMITS.

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BEGIN TEXT - QUOTE - PRISONERS FOR RENT - THE PRISONS IN THE MOST LIBERAL COUNTRY IN AFRICA ARE FULL OF PRISONERS. FOR PRISONERS ARE IMPORTANT FOR INDUSTRY IN THE ECONOMIC-WONDER-LAND.

KENYA IS CONSIDERED ONE OF THE MOST LIBERAL STATES BETWEEN

THE SAHARA AND THE SAMBESE. BUT ITS PRISONS ARE ALWAYS

FULL. BECAUSE ITS JUSTICE IS COMPELLED TO MAKE FULL USE OF THE PENAL SYSTEM BETWEEN TWO AND THREE PERCENT OF THE 14 MILLION KENYANS ARE LOCKED UP, INCLUDING 10 YEAR OLD CHILDREN. IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY PRISONERS AMOUNT TO HALF OF ONE TENTH OF ONE PERCENT OF THE POPULATION.

EVEN TRIVIAL OFFENSES LIKE STEALING AND SMALL FRAUD ARE PUNISHED WITH HARSH SENTENCES....

THE ARMY OF PRISON GUARDS IS ORGANIZED ALONG THE SAME LINES AS THE ARMED FORCES....

THE "PRISON INDUSTRIES" ARE THE SECOND LARGEST EMPLOYER IN THE ECONOMIC-WONDER-LAND KENYA. THE CITIZENS IN PRISON DENIM PRODUCE CONSERVED FRUIT, FURNITURE, AND FIELD VEHICLES. THEY BUILD, PARTLY UNDER SUPERVISION OF WHITE ENGINEERS, BUSH PATHS AND HOTEL PALACES. AND EVERY-THING ONLY FOR SUBSISTENCE.

THE PRISON INDUSTRY HAS ITS OWN FACTORIES, BUT PRISONERS ARE ALSO RENTED OUT: SINGLY TO MOW LAWNS OR A HUNDRED AT A TIME TO PICK COFFEE. RATES ARE INDEED HIGHER THAN WAGE COSTS FOR FREE WORKERS, BUT ON THE OTHER HAND THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COST TO REVENUE RELATIONSHIPS IS MORE FAVORABLE. FOR THE PRISONER-WORKERS DO NOT STRIKE, THEY ARE NEVER ILL, AND THEY WORK 12 INSTEAD OF THE NORMAL 8 HOURS.

UNION LEADER JUMA BOY SAYS THAT THE BENEFICIARIES OF THE "SHAMEFUL EXPLOITATION" ARE INFLUENTIAL MEMBERS OF THE RULING KIKUJU TRIBE AND THE EAST AFRICAN AFFILIATES OF LARGE WESTERN CORPORATIONS. THE KIKUJU-CAN, WITH FIRST LADY MAMA NGINA KENYATTA AND HIGH RANKING GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES LIKE SPECIAL MINISTER MBIYU KOINANGE AND JUSTICE MINISTER CHARLES NJONJO AT THE TOP, CONTROL THE MAJORITY PORTION OF "PRISON INDUSTRIES" STOCKSHARES.

CHIEF USERS OF THIS CHEAP LABOR ARE OVERSEAS CORPORATIONS LIKE THE PINEAPPLE GIANT DEL MONTE, THE BRITISH CON- GLOMERATE LONRHO WHOSE MANAGEMENT BOARD HEAD UDI GECAGA IS KANYATTA'S SONE-IN-LAW) AND THE RUBBER MULTINATIONAL COMPANY FIRESTONE.

BECAUSE EUROPEANS ARE ONLY USEFUL TO A LIMITED EXTENT UNDER THE HARD LABOR CONDITIONS AND BECAUSE THE JUSTICE

SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CENTRAL ORGANIZATION OF TRADE
UNIONS AND A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT - TRANSLATORS' NOTE

MINISTRY PREFERS AVOIDING DIPLOMATIC COMPLICATIONS, WHITE
CULPRITS NORMALLY RECEIVE ONLY SYMBOLIC PENALTIES: A
FINE OF A THOUSAND KENYA SHILLINGS (ABOUT 250 DM (\$125))
FOR A FARMER WHO WHILE DRUNK SHOT AND WOUNDED TWO BLACK
WORKERS SO BADLY THEY HAD TO BE DELIVERED TO A HOSPITAL
OR A 3,000 SHILLING FINE FOR A FRENCH BUSINESSMAN WHO
RAN OVER AND KILLED TWO PERSONS ON THE HIGHWAY BETWEEN
NAIROBI AND MAMBASSA. CORPORAL PUNISHMENT IS ALSO RE-
SERVED TO BLACKS.

...HOWEVER, INMATES OF KENYA PRISONS RECEIVE ENOUGH TO
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EAT, A BED TO SLEEP IN, AND MEDICINE WHEN THEY ARE SICK--
WHAT FOR AFRICAN RELATIONSHIPS ARE IN NO WAY TO BE TAKEN
FOR GRANTED.

THEREFORE, MINISTER OF JUSTICE NJONJO, WHO STUDIED LAW
IN SOUTH AFRICA, THE COUNTRY OF APARTHEID, REACTED
ANGRILY AS "AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL", THE PRISONERS AID
ORGANIZATION COMPLAINED LAST YEAR THAT HIS BUREAUCRATS
WERE VIOLATING HUMAN RIGHTS. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE
"SUNDAY NATION" HE SNEERED, "THEY SHOULD COME AND SEE
FOR THEMSELVES, BUT THEY SHOULD TAKE AN ITINERARY THROUGH
OUR NEIGHBORING STATES UGANDA AND TANSANIA IN ORDER TO
SEE WHERE THINGS ARE REALLY BAD AS FAR AS HUMAN RIGHTS
ARE CONCERNED. CLOSE QUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR, PRESS COMMENTS, ALLEGATIONS, PRISONERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE218917
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RMMAXIM:DJR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780352-0489
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780812/aaaaakdn.tel
Line Count: 150
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c2cef759-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN HA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1587247
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALLEGATIONS OF EXPLOITATION OF PRISON LABOR
TAGS: SHUM, US, KE, IAMAW
To: NAIROBI
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c2cef759-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014